



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY AUDIT COMMITTEE
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

10:30 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (16-2377)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Sarkis Semerdjyan, Taylor Dudley, Emily Williams, Michelle Newell, Genie Chough and Michelle Vega

Absent: James A. Blunt, Vice Chair Dorinne Jordan, Member Kieu-Anh King, Member Carl Gallucci and Member Fred Leaf

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order. (16-2225)

The meeting was called to order by Sarkis Semerdjyan at 3:18 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes for the meeting of April 6, 2016. (16-2226)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Department Success Stories. (16-2227)

Diana Flaggs, Department of Children and Family Services, reported that the Fiscal Compliance Assessment Reports for FY 2014-2015 indicate that 7 Group Homes, 1 Foster Family Agency with a Group Home, and 24 agencies had no findings; 21 agencies had only one minor finding.

Ms. Flaggs attributed this success to the fiscal training of Contractors provided by the Auditor-Controller. Ms. Flaggs thanked them, and will

provide a list of Contractors that participated, their Supervisorial District, as well as the programs contracted.

II. REPORTS

4. Bayfront Youth & Family Services - A Department of Children and Family Services Provider - Fiscal Compliance Review (2/24/16). (16-1286)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - AC REPORT](#)

5. Aspiranet Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (2/23/16). (16-1688)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

6. Hathaway-Sycamores Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (2/23/16). (16-1689)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

7. Latino Family Institute, Inc. Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (2/23/16). (16-1690)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

8. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys Group Home Quality Assurance Review (2/24/16). (16-1691)

Genie Chough, Third District, posed questions about the consequences for not meeting minimum standard regarding the filing of Safety Incident Reports (SIR). Karen Richardson, Department of Children and Family Services, reported that a Quality Improvement Plan would be filed by the Foster Family Agency to ensure improved performance, and based on the new criteria for 2015-16 it is possible there will be no deficiency.

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

9. St. Anne's Maternity Group Home Contract Compliance Review (2/24/16). (16-1692)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

10. Childnet Youth and Family Services Foster Family Network Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review (2/25/16). (16-1693)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

11. David and Margaret Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (2/25/16). (16-1694)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

12. Families Uniting Families Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (2/25/16). (16-1695)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

13. Five Acres Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (2/25/16). (16-1696)

Karen Richardson, Department of Children and Family Services, clarified that this agency is located in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, there being no objections, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

14. Homes of Hope Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (2/25/16). (16-1697)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

15. T & T Home for Boys Group Home Fiscal Compliance Assessment (2/25/16). (16-1698)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

16. Los Angeles Youth Network Fiscal Compliance Assessment (2/25/16). (16-1699)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

17. Counseling & Research Associates d.b.a. Masada Homes Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (2/25/16). (16-1700)

The Committee noted that this agency performed well, and the detailed narratives that indicate involvement and participation are positive, however, the scoring is difficult to follow due to having met 6 of 9 categories with improvements needed in safety, permanency and team work; the Committee inquired regarding the consequences, follow up, and monitoring that show improvement.

Karen Richardson, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that the scoring may present a different picture and that the scoring methods are currently under review, considerations for change are ongoing. Additionally, Ms. Richardson indicated there are no concerns regarding this agency.

Kym Renner, DCFS, reported that the 2015-16 reports will provide indicators on improvements showing a contrast between the previous scores and current ones.

On motion of Emily Williams, seconded by Michelle Vega, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

18. McKinley Children's Center Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (2/25/16). (16-1701)

In response to questions posed by the Committee regarding the open referrals, and safety score, Karen Richardson, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), explained that the large number of referrals is closed and unfounded, this is not alarming due to the size of this agency. The safety score reflected a 30-day period and is dependent upon the number of reports, the type of violation, and the responses by the agency. Additionally, enforcement of existing standards and considerations regarding whether the number scores will continue is under review. Kym Renner (DCFS) indicated that the numerical scoring issue will be presented at a future Cluster meeting.

On motion of Emily Williams, seconded by Michelle Vega, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

19. Nuevo Amanecer Latino Children's Services Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (2/25/16). (16-1702)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

20. Orange County Children's Foundation Group Home Quality Assurance Review (2/25/16). (16-1703)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

21. St. Anne's Maternity Group Home Quality Assurance Review (2/25/16). (16-1704)

The Committee posed questions regarding safety, engagement, and visitations and inquired about the action plan and how improvement will be monitored since this agency services a difficult population with frequent AWOLs.

Karen Richardson, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS),

reported that the current results are surprising and unexpected since DCFS had met with this Group Home (GH) twice prior. Ms. Richardson explained that one isolated incident involving lack of visitations was due to family residing outside of Los Angeles County. Ms. Richardson assured the Committee these issues have been addressed and Compliance Reviews were discussed; DCFS is scheduled to meet with this GH in June 2016 and will continue monitoring, and follow up on the staffing issues involved.

Rhonda David-Shirley, DCFS, also reported that monitoring engagement and AWOLS is ongoing; GH staff have been advised to improve their work with the focus children to determine why children are leaving, and initiate an action plan to possibly follow the children and convince them to return.

Additionally, Diana Flaggs, DCFS, reported that this GH receives Rate Classification Level 12 funding. Ms. Flaggs briefly explained that funding increases when a newborn arrives and clothing is needed.

On motion of Emily Williams, seconded by Michelle Vega, there being no objections, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

22. The Dream Catcher Foundation, Inc. Group Home Quality Assurance Review (2/25/16). (16-1705)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

23. West Covina Foster Family Agency dba Homes of Hope, Casa Esperanza Treatment Center Group Home Quality Assurance Review (2/25/16). (16-1706)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

24. Inner Circle Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review (2/26/16). (16-1707)

Michelle Vega, Fifth District, posed questions regarding the average length of stay for children under the age of 10.

Diana Flaggs, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported the short amount of stay indicated is due to the increased number of placements at this Foster Family Agency.

Karen Richardson, DCFS, will provide an email regarding the details surrounding the average length of stay.

On motion of Emily Williams, seconded by Michelle Vega, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

25. Bourne Group Home Contract Compliance Review (2/26/16). (16-1708)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

26. Turmont Home for Boys Group Home Fiscal Assessment and Contract Compliance Review (2/26/16). (16-1709)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

27. Florence Crittenton Services of Orange County Fiscal Compliance Assessment (2/26/16). (16-1710)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

28. Penny Lane Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (2/26/16). (16-1711)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

29. Families Uniting Families Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review (2/26/16). (16-1712)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was

received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

30. West Covina Foster Family Agency DBA Homes of Hope Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review and Fiscal Assessment (2/26/16). (16-1713)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

31. T & T Home for Boys Group Home Quality Assurance Review (2/26/16). (16-1714)

Emily Williams, Second District, posed questions regarding the Safety Incident Reports (SIR) and made reference to Page 7 of the Quality Assurance Review, specifically non-compliance with procedure and protocol for truancy reporting.

Karen Richardson, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), explained that the contract requirement for the Group Home is to report any incident to DCFS and the Children's Social Worker.

On motion of Emily Williams, seconded by Michelle Vega, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

32. McKinley Children's Center Group Home Quality Assurance Review (2/29/16). (16-1715)

The Committee posed questions regarding the Rate Classification Level 12 (RCL 12) placements' action plan and/or life policy for the handling of suicidal thoughts and threats. Additionally, under the safety category, two incidents at school were highlighted; one involved an injury, and the other police presence.

Karen Richardson, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that all Foster Family Agencies (FFA) as well as all Group Homes (GH) are required to address this issue in their program statement of services which are approved by DCFS and the Community Care Licensing (CCL). Also, monthly forums, and trainings from the Department of Mental Health (DMH), are ongoing to include all providers. Additionally, Ms. Richardson will look into the highlighted incidents, the location of the school, and any details surrounding the police involvement.

On motion of Emily Williams, seconded by Michelle Vega, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 33.** Hamburger Home dba Aviva Family and Children's Services Group Home Contract Compliance Monitoring Review (3/2/16). (16-1716)

Michelle Newell, Second District, noted the summary regarding repeat issues surrounding the clothing allowance, and posed questions about the frequency of monitoring and the steps taken to resolve this matter.

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation, reported that data is now available and used for comparisons; monitoring has increased from quarterly to monthly reviews of their recordkeeping logs; monthly reviews shall remain until this issue is resolved. Also, the GH has been advised about a permanent change, the seriousness of inaccurate accounting logs, and the possible consequences regarding this issue.

On motion of Emily Williams, seconded by Michelle Vega, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - PROBATION REPORT](#)

- 34.** D & R Turning Point Transitional Housing Placement Program Fiscal Compliance Assessment (3/2/16). (16-1717)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 35.** Olive Crest Treatment Centers DBA Olive Crest Fiscal Assessment and Contract Compliance Monitoring Review (3/2/16). (16-1718)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 36.** Penny Lane Centers Group Home Contract Compliance Monitoring Review (3/2/16). (16-1719)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was

received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

37. Project Six Group Home DBA The Help Group Fiscal Compliance Assessment and Contract Compliance Review (3/2/16). (16-1720)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

38. Children's Way Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (3/7/16). (16-1721)

Emily Williams, Second District, posed questions regarding safety and referenced the scoring on Page 2 of the Quality Assurance Review and the decreased status found on Page 7.

Karen Richardson, Department of Children and Family Services, reported that the contrast between the two scores was interpreted erroneously; the safety status found for this Foster Family Agency is acceptable.

On motion of Emily Williams, seconded by Michelle Vega, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

39. Heritage Group Home Quality Assurance Review (3/8/16). (16-1722)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

40. Inner Circle Foster Care and Adoption Services Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (3/9/16). (16-1723)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

41. Guardians of Love Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (3/9/16). (16-1724)

Emily Williams, Second District, questioned the frequency of home inspections, and made reference to Page 8 of the Quality Assurance

Review.

Karen Richardson, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that DCFS encourages the Foster Family Agency to include home inspections along with their monthly Foster Home visits; this is becoming more popular from the regulated visits which occur every six months.

On motion of Emily Williams, seconded by Michelle Vega, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTIN DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

42. Rosemary Children's Services Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (3/10/16). (16-1725)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

43. Hannah's Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (3/11/16). (16-1726)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Emily Williams, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

III. DISCUSSIONS

44. Changing The Health of Adolescents Impacting The Nation Reaction Transitional Housing Program Plus Fiscal Compliance Assessment (2/10/16). (Agenda No. 14 of 4/6/16)

- Update from the Department of Children and Family Services regarding whether this Contractor successfully implemented their Corrective Action Plan. (16-1165)

Diana Flagg reported that this agency was referred to the Auditor-Controller for a fiscal review based on their findings. Aggie Alonso of the Auditor-Controller's Office confirmed that the report will be finalized in six months, the agency is allowed due process before any findings are reported.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

45. Human Services Network dba Youth Services Network Group Home Quality Assurance Review (2/10/16). (Agenda No. 16 of 4/6/16)

- Update from the Department of Children and Family Services regarding implementation of the Quality Improvement Plan. (16-1167)

Leticia Torres-Ibarra, DCFS, reported that the Quality Assurance Review is scheduled for this month; a preliminary update will be available at the next meeting. Diana Flaggs, DCFS, added that this group home was put on hold by the Contract Compliance Section at the end of April; a review conference is scheduled for Monday, May 9, 2016.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

46. Lifecircles Unlimited DBA Lifecircles Group Home Fiscal Assessment and Contract Compliance Review (2/10/16). (Agenda No. 19 of 4/6/16)

Update from Department of Children and Family Services regarding improvements following the hold removed in January 2016. (16-1170)

Diana Flaggs, DCFS, reported that a Fiscal Compliance Review is in process, a preliminary report will be available at the next meeting. Improvements were noted from the previous review both on the Fiscal Compliance Assessment and the Contract Compliance Review.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

47. Foster Family Network Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (2/10/16). (Agenda No. 25 of 4/6/16)

Update from the Department of Children and Family Services regarding the Quality Assurance Review and the Needs and Services Plan. (16-1176)

Leticia Torres-Ibarra, Department of Children and Family Services, reported that one of the issues identified in the Quality Assurance Review, was that the agency was not identifying options timely and they were not working with the DCFS CSWs on permanency plans. Ms. Torres-Ibarra indicated that the agency will ensure they utilize a team approach and collaborate with DCFS CSWs, Certified Foster Parents, and Focus Children when discussing issues and permanency plans.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

48. Update by DCFS on how Junior Blind of America Group Home plans to decrease school absenteeism and the number of runaways as requested at the meeting of February 17, 2016 by Emily Williams, Second District. (Agenda No. 44 of 4/6/16)

Update from the Department of Children and Family Services regarding the increased number of absence without leave from the Group Home. (16-1731)

Leticia Torres-Ibarra, Department of Children and Family Services, reported that they met with Junior Blind on April 25, 2016 to discuss the increased AWOL behaviors; Junior Blind Staff is meeting with the Sheriff and CCL on a quarterly basis to address this issue. It was noted that the agency needs to report the SIRs regarding AWOLs immediately to allow the Sheriff to look for the youth upon notice. DCFS will meet with Junior Blind again to follow up on these issues.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Torres-Ibarra indicated that the increase in AWOLs did not have anything to do with the closure of the Welcome Centers; the site referenced is the Group Home. The amount of time that lapsed in reporting the AWOLs is not known, she will follow up. Ms. Torres-Ibarra also confirmed that Junior Blind staff does make an attempt to follow youth and make every effort to convince them to return. Junior Blind will review their intake process and determine if they are able to assist children with special needs. Karen Richardson, DCFS, indicated that the AWOLs from school decreased while the AWOLs from the home have increased.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

49. Matters not on the posted agenda (to be presented and placed on the agenda of a future meeting). (16-2233)

Emily Williams, Second District, requested an update on TSEs and Continuum of Care; Aldo Marin, DCFS indicated that those items will be discussed at a future Cluster meeting.

50. Public Comment. (16-2234)

No members of the public addressed the Committee on this item.

Adjournment. (16-2235)

51. **There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.**